



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON  
Quality Teaching  
and Learning



Teacher Time  
Webinars for Head Start Preschool Teachers

FOLLOW-UP

# PRESCHOOL MATH IDEAS: HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2015

Thank You!

We're so glad you were able to join us for another Teacher Time!

## Presentation Summary

### All about the "M" in STEAM: Math!

Déana Scipio shared some favorite children's books that teachers can use to highlight math concepts: *Anno's Counting Book* by Mitsumasa Anno, *Great Estimations* by Bruce Goldstone, *My Friend Rabbit* by Eric Rohmann, and *The Doorbell Rang* by Pat Hutchins. Déana showed us how teachers and children talk about the math in the stories and illustrations, and build on children's math knowledge.

Soleil Boyd showed us ways to *mathematize* the classroom environment to increase children's math learning. She described mathematizing as a way to bring out the math that is part of your classroom activities and routines. When you mathematize, you notice and share the math concepts that are all around you.

Key messages from the presentation:

- Mathematizing is a powerful way to engage children in math learning. Research shows that when you use a wide variety of math language during classroom activities, children make greater gains in math.
- You can increase your math talk during classroom activities to increase children's exposure to math language.
- You can create a cheat sheet to help you remember which math terms you want to talk about and teach. Post it in several areas for all your teachers and volunteers to see. You can also carry it with you for quick reference throughout the day.

With Soleil, Dawn and Kristin used ideas from participants to fill out a Mathematics Planning Form. (A link to the form is included in this email.) You can download a blank version to your computer and type directly into the document, or print it and write in your activity ideas.

## Try It Out

### STEAM Concepts on Video

Liz Wimmer brought us a video that shows teacher Fanny doing a science activity with children at circle time. The teacher incorporated math into the activity and used a lot of math talk. Liz also shared ideas on how to add graphing and measuring activities into science activities.

## Resources

- The Math Toolkit on the ECLKC: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/curricula/MKandS.html>
- High Five Mathematize: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/teaching/practice/curricula/high-five.html>
- Next Generation Preschool Math: <http://nextgenmath.org/>

## Behavior Management Minute

### Managing Behavior and Counting

Gail Joseph talked about how behavior management tools can also help teachers mathematize their classroom environment:

- **Number line:** Put a strip of tape or laminated numbers on the floor where the children line up. This gives children a target place to stand on (behavior management), and it also helps them learn the order of numbers.
- **Counting cards:** Create a laminated counting card to help the children know when it's their turn with a toy. As children touch and count the numbers on a card (1 to 10, or 1 to 20), they practice self-regulation as they wait, and learn number recognition as they count.
- **Number cards:** Post a number card during meal times. When card number 4 is posted, the children know that they can take four scoops of cereal. When card number 1 is posted, the children know they can take one string cheese or one packet of crackers.

## Resiliency & Wellness

### Lend a Hand: Volunteering Creates Happiness

Gail also shared research that says if you volunteer once a month, you may increase your happiness by 7%. If you volunteer on a weekly basis, you can increase your happiness by 16%. Are you too busy? Studies also show that people who volunteer actually feel as though they have *more* time—it's a concept called "time affluence."